

**KUTRE ŠIVAT**

Presented by Elsie Dunin

**KOUTRE ŠIVAT**  
(Slovenia)**AKA'. KUTRI**

KOO-treh SHEE-vaht --means quilt sewing. "Arch" dances as such as Koutre Šivat are considered to be remnants of pre-Christian dance forms. Called by many other names, this dance type is found throughout Slovenia. The following version of Koutre Šivat has been arranged by Elsie Dunin from figures as taught by Mirko Ramovš in August 1971 at the Folk Dance Course, Badija, Yugoslavia. Elsie Dunin also observed the dance innumerable times as performed by professional and amateur Yugoslav folk dance ensembles from 1957 to 1971.

Additional Sources: 1. Dance descriptions by Dennis Boxell and Ricky Holden for Folkraft Records mid 1960's  
2. Mirko Ramovš, Slovenski Narodni Plesovi, Zagreb Prosvjetni Sabor Hrvatske, 1971, pages 15-17

MUSIC: Koutre Šivat may be performed with or without music  
Suggested record: Folkraft 1545 x 45

Note: Start on either foot. Any one or combination of the following figures may be performed any number of times. For recreational dancing the following version is suggested.

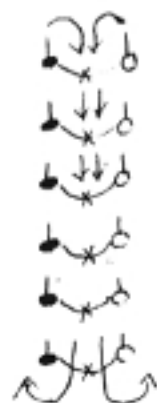
FORMATION: Six (6) to eight (8) couples, in a column, all facing the same direction. W are to the R of their partners. Inside hands are joined and held down.  
Throughout the dance both use a light, flat-footed running step on each beat of the music.  
If possible attempt to complete each figure with the phrasing of the music, but not necessary.

MUSIC 4/4

PATTERN

**FIG 1.**

Without releasing inside handhold, the first cpl turns twd each other (1/2 turn) and ducks under an arch which the second cpl has formed. Meanwhile the second cpl moves fwd and ducks under an arch made by the third cpl. As each cpl reaches the first cpl's pos, they, too, turn and duck under. When the first cpl reaches the bottom of the set, they rise, make 1/2 turn, make an arch and move up the outside of the set (do not release handhold). The rest of the cpls follow the first couple.



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FIG II

Inside hands still joined, the first cpl ducks and moves bwd under arches formed by the rest of the set. As each cpl reaches the first cpl's pos., they in turn do what the first cpl did. When each cpl reaches the end of the set, they stand, form an arch with inside hands, and run fwd to orig pos.

FIG III.

Inside hands still joined, the column divides into 2 equal sets (A & B). The first half, set "A" (3 or 4 cpls), ducks and moves bwd under arches formed by set "B"; meanwhile set "B" moves fwd into set "A" pos. (The 2 sets exchange places). Immediately set "B" ducks and moves bwd and set "A" forms the arches and moves fwd, again to exchange places to reform orig column.

FIG IV.

Hands still joined, the column begins to move fwd. The last cpl makes an arch, and runs faster than the column, to move ahead; sequentially as each cpl becomes the end of the column, they make an arch and move fwd. When each cpl reaches the head of the column, they in turn duck and slow down the run, so that the other cpls may move in front of them. In this way the column of cpls moves fwd.

